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US Marines at Abbey Gate before a suicide bomber struck outside Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul on August 26, 2021 | FILE PICTURE

Taliban kill Kabul airport bombing mastermind

A ground assault by the Taliban killed the Islamic State militant who spearheaded the August 2021 suicide bombing at Kabul airport that left 13 US troops and about 170 Afghans dead during the chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan, US officials said on Tuesday. The militant was killed during a series of battles between the Taliban and the Islamic State group's affiliate in southern Afghanistan early in April.

EXPRESS READ

'Let Parl take call on same sex marriage'

New Delhi: The Centre on Wednesday requested the Supreme Court to consider leaving questions raised in pleas seeking legal sanction for same sex marriages to Parliament. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a bench that the apex court is dealing with a "very complex subject", which has a "profound social impact". P10

FIR after probe in WFI case: Police

New Delhi: The Delhi Police told the Supreme Court that some kind of preliminary probe was needed before it can proceed with registration of FIR over sexual harassment charges levelled by women wrestlers against WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. P17

WHO flags Indian cough syrup again

New Delhi: The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said that a cough syrup made by an Indian company was found to be contaminated in the Marshall Islands and Micronesia. The WHO statement did not say whether any children in the Marshall Islands or Micronesia had fallen ill. P10

Maoists ambush police vehicle in C'garh, kill 11

Ten policemen, one civilian dead as ultras blow up vehicle in which they were travelling

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

IN one of the biggest attacks on security forces in Chhattisgarh, Maoists killed 10 policemen and a driver by blowing up the vehicle in which they were travelling at Aranpur in Dantewada district on Wednesday.

The blast, carried out by the outlawed CPI(Maoist) using an improvised explosive device (IED), took place under Aranpur police station area around 1 pm on Wednesday when a team of the police's District Reserve Guard (DRG) was out on an anti-Naxal operation.

The impact of the explosion was such that it created a 10-feet deep crater and completely destroyed the road.

The Maoists had planted the IED beneath the road after creating a small tunnel without damaging the road. Going by the magnitude of the explosion, officials believe the rebels may have placed over 50 kg of explosives beneath the road.

Immediately after the explosion, the forces detained two suspects. Senior officials including the Bastar IG and Dantewada SP rushed to the spot. Additional reinforcements, too, were sent and the search operation further intensified.

Security personnel at the blast site in Dantewada district on Wednesday

According to sources, the security personnel seem to have fallen into the trap laid by the Naxals. A team of around 100 Dantewada DRG — mostly recruited from the local tribal population and trained to combat the Maoists — came to Aranpur a couple of days ago after learning about the presence of Maoists there.

When DRG team was returning after the operation, it came under attack. Sources said private vehicles were arranged for their return to Dantewada.

According to sources, some villagers flagged the vehicles on the pretext of seeking donations for a local festival. The first vehicle didn't stop and sped off. But the second one halted to respond to the villagers. As it began moving slowly thereafter, the Maoists detonated the IED, killing all 11 in the vehicle on the spot.

5.3 cr voters, 'Vote from Home' facility this time

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Meena on Wednesday said the state has 5,31,33,054 registered voters for the May 10 Assembly elections. Of them,16 lakh are new. The final electoral roll was published on January 15.

Revealing this to reporters here, Meena said the "Vote from home" facility will be introduced for the first time from April 29 to May 6.

He said the enrollment activities were held till April 10 and 16,04285 voters were added. While there were 5,05,15,011 voters for the 2018 Assembly elections, their number increased by 25 lakh, including 11,71,558 young voters aged between 18 and19, this time. The "Vote from Home" facility will help 1,13,300 senior citizens aged 80 and above and persons with disability.

"Booth-wise lists of electors, who have opted for the facility, have been prepared. The voters will be informed about the day and time in advance. Two polling staff, a videographer, a policeman, and agents of political parties will go to such voters' houses during the specified time. After verification of the ID card, a voting compartment and ballot will be provided. The entire process will be video recorded," Meena said.

While claiming that the elector's photo identity cards (EPIC) coverage in Karnataka is 100 percent, Meena said 37,94,517 EPICs were issued from September 1, 2022 to April 25. To help voters to know their polling stations, official voter slips will be distributed at least 10 days before the polling date.

CONTINUED ON: P5

IN A NUTSHELL

	VOTERS	NEW VOTERS	Persons with Disability	VOTING FROM HOME
	2,67,28,053 Male	6,45,140 Male	571,281	80,250 80 plus
5,31,33,054	2,64,00,074 Female	5,26,237 Female	80+ voters 1,215,920	19,279 PwD
	4,927 Others	181 Others	NRIs 3,048	13,771 Essential service

A RAY OF HOPE

HC allows middle-aged couple, who lost only son, to have surrogate child

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court has permitted a 57-year-old man and his 45-year-old wife from the city to have a surrogate child. The court, however, directed them to undergo a triple test for an eligibility certificate as the law prohibits a man aged above 55 to have a child through surrogacy. The couple have to undergo genetic, physical and economic tests.

The court issued a directive to the state surrogacy board to consider granting an eligibility certificate to the couple. Since the man is growing old, the court fixed four weeks for the board to consider his application.

Justice M Nagaprasanna passed the order, while partly allowing the petition filed by the couple from Gokula, questioning certain provisions of the Act that prevent them from having a child. The woman had gone into a deep depression after their 23-year-old only son, who was doing an internship at a college in Mangaluru after his MBBS, died in a road accident in December 2022.

"It is said one of the most painful moments of one's life is to be the pallbearer of a deceased son or daughter. Even medical science says that many parents tend to go into deep depression due to the sudden loss of their children. This emotional vacuum is what is prayed to be filled in the case," the judge said.

The petitioners contended that there is no rationale behind the prescription of the cut-off age of 55 for the man. Declining to accept the said contention, the court said it has to salvage the situation and hence, it is necessary to iron out the creases in legislation without disturbing the content of the statute. P5

INTERVIEW

MODI BLITZ WILL HAVE NO IMPACT: GOWDA

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to launch his blitzkrieg rallies in Karnataka, former prime minister and JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda told *The New Indian Express* that Modi's rallies will have more impact on the Lok Sabha elections than on Assembly polls, which are fought on local issues. There is nothing special in my campaigning. I have told the party leaders to line up three programmes a day. I will campaign in around 40 constituencies... | P4

BJP KARNATAKA
Virtual Interaction with Karyakartas
April 27th, 9:30 AM
Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi
50 Lakh BJP Karyakartas
Dialogue with PM
ಡಬಲ್ ಎಂಜಿನ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ಸಾಕಾರ
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